

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1433 - SB 1524

February 24, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes a local education agency (LEA) or public charter school to retain a student in the third grade who has not shown a basic understanding of the curriculum and an ability to perform the skills required in the subject of reading or English language arts (ELA) as determined by the student's grades or standardized test results. Requires LEAs and public charter schools to develop and implement a retention policy for students for the 2023-24 school year and subsequent school years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The current third grade retention law takes effect at the end of the 2022-23 school year and requires a student in the third grade to not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be proficient in English language arts (ELA) based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) test.
- The proposed legislation deletes the current third grade retention law set to take effect at the end of the 2022-23 school year in its entirety.
- The proposed legislation further removes the requirement for LEAs and public charter schools to retain students in the third grade who do not meet certain testing benchmarks; retaining a student in the third grade will now be discretionary and based upon retention policies developed by each LEA and public charter school.
- The proposed legislation does not abolish learning loss bridge camps. It is assumed that LEAs may still require students to participate in a learning loss bridge camp before entering the fourth grade; therefore, no significant impact on attendance at such camps.
- DOE will be required to update retention guidance documents and communicate with districts on the changes to retention law.
- LEAs and DOE will be able to comply with the proposed legislation within existing resources. Any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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